Programme, Quality Improvement Programme, Continuing Education Programme, Career Awards for Young Teachers, and revision of Pay Scales alongwith better service conditions.

Assessment of pulses production

†*384. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the quantum of pulses produced in the country during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, what is the assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that production of pulses is likely to be less during the current year as compared to in the past few years; and

(d) if so, to what extent the production is expected to be less as compared to the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to advance estimates of production for 2000-2001, production of pulses in the country is expected to be 12.33 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The production of pulses during 1995-96 to 2000-01 is given below:

	(Million tonnes)
1995-96	12.31
1996-97	14.25
1997-98	12.97
1998-99	14.91
1999-2000	13.35
2000-2001	12.33*

*Advance estimates

It is seen from the above table that the production of pulses during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2000-01 is likely to be lower than that of preceding few years (1996-97 to 1999-2000) but slightly higher than that of 1995-96. The low production during 2000-01 is expected due to aberrant weather conditions.

Track-II Deplomacy to solve Kashmir problem

*385. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Track-II diplomacy is in operation for solving Kashmir problem as reported by the Indian Press; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of this policy?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The term "Track II" is used in popular parlance, and in the media, to describe the exchanges between academics, scholars, journalists etc., from India and Pakistan. These meetings, which take place on a broad range of subjects, are of a private nature and do not have any official significance.

The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is under the forcible and illegal occupation by Pakistan. Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan bilateral relations, both India and Pakistan are committed to resolving all issues peacefully through bilateral discussions. Government have reiterated their commitment to resuming the Composite Dialogue initiated by India in 1998. An appropriate environment is an obvious requirement for a meaningful dialogue. For this, Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and abandon hostile propaganda against India.

Land acquired for setting-up ISRO

*386. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families whose lands were acquired for setting-up of ISRO unit at Mahendragiri in Thirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu;